

Louisiana



2022 Issue 1



DON'T ignore me.

What? You don't think that you should pay attention to a little yellow flag? Well, I'm the best thing to keep your crew safe. Call 811 before digging, and Atmos Energy will plant me and my pals wherever natural gas lines are buried. Trust me, you'd rather have us get your attention than a natural gas line.



Know what's **below.**
Call before you dig.



atmosenergy.com/call811

from the desk of

Louisiana 811

Brent Saltzman



Spring is definitely around the corner and in anticipation of an exceptionally busy “digging season,” we’re making preparations by hiring and training new Customer Service Representatives (CSRs). We’re off to a great start for 2022 having the busiest January on record with both incoming locate requests and outgoing notifications to our members! We ended the year with an impressive 9% increase in incoming volume over the previous year and our homeowner ticket volume increased by over 27%.

We feel our advertising and outreach efforts are paying off. We’re reaching more folks with our safe-digging message and we will continue to strive to look for innovative ways to increase our exposure.

Speaking of new and exciting ways to increase 811 awareness, we’re thrilled to announce that on Thursday, March 31, we’ll be the game sponsor for the LSU versus Auburn baseball game! We expect over 10,000 fans to pack Alex Box Stadium and see our Louisiana 811 logo and tagline – Know What’s Below, Call or Click Before You Dig -

prominently displayed during the game. In addition to the fans in the stadium, we’ll also have our radio commercials available to the listening audience for, not only this game but in all 56 home and away games. Additionally, we’ll have the sporty 811 Corvette in a highly visible location for all the fans to see and we’ll be handing out purple and gold rally towels at the nearby Louisiana 811 tent. To top it off, we have the esteemed privilege of throwing out the first pitch! So come on out to the ballgame as we kick off Safe Digging Month in this spectacular fashion. You won’t want to miss it!

Until next time, enjoy reading about the recognition of some special folks in this issue of our magazine as well as educational articles relevant to our industry. And, finally, thanks to the outstanding support of our advertisers because without you we wouldn’t have this format to convey important, timely information.

Brent Saltzman
Executive Director
Louisiana 811

Louisiana 811



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Louisiana 811 is published quarterly.

Roger Cox, Publisher

Individual subscriptions are available without charge in
the United States.

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can be submitted to:

Email: publisher@811magazines.com
Louisiana 811

or 2215 West Boardwalk Dr., Baton Rouge, LA 70816

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Know what's **below**.
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Did you make that call?



Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

Boardwalk Pipelines is committed to operating pipeline assets in a safe, reliable and compliant manner and providing the highest level of customer service.



2022 Louisiana Convention Schedule

Louisiana Society of Professional Surveyors (LSPS)
April 6-7; Golden Nugget, Lake Charles
www.lsp.net

Louisiana Parish Engineers & Supervisors Association (LPESA) Spring Conference
April 20-21; Sulphur

Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) Scholarship Golf Tournament
May 19; Jennings
lga@tatmangroup.com

Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) Pipeline Safety Conference
July 18-21; New Orleans

Louisiana Rural Water Association (LRWA) Annual Conference
July 18-21; Lake Charles
www.lrwa.org

Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of Louisiana Annual Convention & Trade Show
July 21-23; Crowne Plaza Baton Rouge
www.laphcc.org

Operations Report

Incoming Calls:

2021 thru Feb – 113,766

2022 thru Feb – 139,123

Outgoing Notifications:

2021 thru Feb – 545,749

2022 thru Feb – 670,042

Call Ratio (In to Out)

2021 thru Feb – 1:4.79

2022 thru Feb – 1:4.82

On-Line Ticket Entry

2021 thru Feb – 82.41%

2022 thru Feb – 86.06%

Home Owner Tickets

2021 thru Feb – 5,848

2022 thru Feb – 6,110

Welcome New Members

AOP Fiber
Assumption Parish Waterworks
Breton Sounds, Holding, LLC
CapturePoint LLC
Chataignier Water System
GEP Haynesville II, LLC
Palmer Petroleum, Inc.
Placid Midstream LLC
Stroud Production LLC
Talos Third Coast, LLC
U. D. Man, Inc.

David Frey - Vic Weston Damage Prevention Champion



Vic Weston (left) presents the award to David Frey.

Congratulations to the recipient of the Vic Weston Damage Prevention Champion Award, David Frey! David's lifelong commitment to safety has played a vital role in the development of Louisiana's One Call program and damage prevention initiatives! Louisiana 811 sincerely appreciates David for all his time and effort into the development and safety of our state. 

Thelma Coleman Recognized for 37 Years of Service



The Louisiana 811 board and staff recognized the retirement of Thelma Coleman at the Damage Prevention Summit. Thelma was congratulated for 37 years of dedicated service and unyielding leadership with Louisiana 811 and has certainly played a pivotal role in the success of our organization!

Although Thelma is retired, you still may have the chance to see her with the 811 Corvette at some industry events! If you'd like a flashy 811 vehicle to attend any big industry events, please reach out to us. 

Do you know what lies beneath? 

At Entergy, safety is our number one priority. Make it yours! Whether you are a homeowner, field worker or excavator, always call 811 before you dig.

From installing a new pool to something as simple as planting a tree, digging without knowing what's beneath the surface can harm or possibly kill you or someone you love. You could disrupt utility services to your neighborhood and be responsible for expensive repairs and steep fines.

When you call **811** before you dig, all utilities, including Entergy, are required to respond within two business days to locate and mark the underground utility lines. (The two business days start the morning of the day **after** you called in for a locate ticket).

And if you suspect a gas leak, leave the area immediately and call **1-800-ENTERGY (368-3749)** or **911**. A gas leak could be happening if you smell the distinctive natural gas odor, hear a hissing or whistling sound near a gas appliance or see dead vegetation or bubbles near a gas line.

We're committed to keeping you safe. Together, we power life.



Know what's below. Call before you dig.



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WE POWER LIFE®

The way I See it

Louisiana 811

By Cole Vanderlick
Manager - Damage Prevention
Louisiana 811



We hope that everyone is off to a safe and successful start to the year. This industry sure has hit the ground running! The Damage Prevention Summit reached new heights at this year's conference, once again discussing important topics that impact us all. We are lucky to be working with people who care about the well-being and progression of our communities. Thank you to all of those who have dedicated their lives to this industry and future developments.

Utility Coordinating Councils are starting to thrive throughout the state again. I sincerely appreciate all of the groups that are meeting to communicate on current and upcoming projects. It's a wonderful thing to see the different companies discussing their projects so that they're on the same page, avoiding obstacles, and potentially working together. If you would like to get involved in your local Utility Coordinating Council, please reach out to us and we'll help facilitate. We are striving for all UCCs throughout the state to be rejuvenated by the end of this year. Thank you for all that you do for your UCC, and 811 wants to help also.

Louisiana Gas Association held an expo day at GASTEC (GAS Training & Education Center) in February. A busy March included the Global Excavation Safety Conference, Police Jury Assoc of LA convention, Forest

Hill tree/plant nursery festival, LGA Annual Operations Conference, Plumbing-Heating-Cooling Contractors of LA "Touch-A-Truck" event in the community, as well as an LSU baseball game day sponsorship. What a way to ring in the spring and digging season! We are getting out and about all throughout the state to spread the news to Call 811 Before You Dig. Our Board, Staff and Call Center are striving daily to educate and support the industry. We appreciate all the stakeholders meeting with us and discussing working together, safely as one team.

The utility and construction industries are continuing to grow and evolve. Governmental grants are being issued throughout the country for the development of new infrastructure. The amount of construction work and utility installation that will continue to occur in the coming years will have a significant impact on this state and country. Dig ticket volume will continue to increase. We should all start thinking, planning, communicating and training to be ready to handle the work load that comes with this moment.

Many utility members and construction contractors have met with us recently, and we couldn't be more grateful. We encourage anyone to reach out to us for free education and training. We can personally meet with you or you can take our free online excavator training course at your own pace.

Thank you for your excellent work! 811

Board Member Spotlight



Every job, every time.

CenterPoint Energy training is focused on making sure your leadership and field personnel understand the 811 state laws, safe digging best practices, and other tips to help your projects be completed damage free without the delays and expenses of cutting a natural gas line. Most importantly, it is critical we cover how to stay safe in the event of a cut natural gas line.



(L to R) Brent Saltzman, LA811, James Lass, Cleco Power, James Martarona, Chairman of LA811 Board of Directors

One of our Louisiana 811 board members retired late last year, James Lass, Cleco Power. We were honored to present James with a recognition plaque for his many years of dedicated service to the Louisiana 811 Board of Directors at a recent board meeting. James performed a couple of pivotal roles on the Board of Directors – Secretary/Treasurer and later Vice Chair.

Enjoy your retirement, James, and thank you for your countless contributions to our organization and damage prevention efforts! 



Our training also covers the steps to prevent natural gas ignition, explosion, and inherent risks should blowing gas from a damaged pipeline occur in your community.

To schedule your training session, email PublicAwareness@CenterPointEnergy.com





Sustaining Member Spotlight



Grady Crawford
CONSTRUCTION COMPANY INC.

GCCCI has completed or is currently working on projects involving the following types of construction: communications (buried and aerial), wireless communications, electrical, sewer, water, horizontal directional drilling, manhole installation and foundations, pipeline services, gas distribution and transmission, industrial petrochemical, drainage, and civil site work. There are very few contractors in the industry today that have the experience and expertise to self-perform so many facets of utility

construction. The experience GCCCI has obtained over the years allows us to pursue very complex or challenging projects. We have the talent in-house to handle large projects that require all types of construction expertise.

Our partnership and being a sustaining member with LA One Call is a vital role to our success in this industry. Keeping up to date with changes in the Dig Law effects every aspect of our business and procedures. The way LA 811 communicates with its members is exactly how the excavator community should work with utility owners and operators. It's all a partnership; communicating and documenting that communication is the key to a successful damage prevention program. www.gradycrawford.com; 800-284-4493 📞



The Louisiana Gas Association (LGA) represents members from all areas of the natural gas industry. The LGA supports its members and the industry by providing services to enhance performance, promote safety, and broaden public awareness of the natural gas industry's contributions to society and the environment. Our focus is education & training, public relations, legislation affecting the natural gas industry, and compliance with rules & regulations.

We have several fantastic upcoming events, including our Scholarship Golf Tournament in Jennings, the Pipeline Safety Conference in New Orleans, and our Scholarship Sporting Clay Tournament in Port Allen. Learn more about these events & all things LGA at LouisianaGas.org!

Louisiana 811 has been an invaluable partner to the LGA with support & training. LA 811 keeps Louisianians safe, and the LGA is proud to be a member of such an outstanding organization!

LGA@tatmangroup.com | LouisianaGas.org (225) 218-6885 📞



Since 2010, Kid Energy USA has been a leading provider of "Children's Entertainment with Purpose." Specializing in safety and awareness in the petroleum industry, Kid Energy USA incorporates STEM-based classroom presentations, interactive media, and publications to improve the manner in which younger audiences absorb and retain critical information.

Led by our flagship characters, Burnie & Earl, we have reached households throughout the U.S. to educate them on both safety and the abundance of petroleum products utilized in our everyday lives. Burnie & Earl have also gained national recognition for Kid Energy USA's unique promotion of public safety. Along with 811 / "Call Before You Dig" organizations abroad, Kid Energy USA has been an innovator in safe digging education and the development of conscious thinking for generations to come.

We are proud to announce that the next chapter of Kid Energy USA has begun. As of Summer 2021, Kid Energy USA Foundation has received its 501(c)(3) status as a non-profit organization. It is our hope that the Kid Energy USA Foundation can assist in fulfilling the need of awareness and knowledge campaigns for communities throughout the country.

Each year, Kid Energy USA's goal is to educate 10,000+ children, through the classroom, on the proper protocols of safe digging and utility awareness and knowledge. In order to continue building on these efforts, your support will be paramount.

If you are interested in sponsoring a classroom or materials to supplement our outreach efforts, please contact our Kid Energy USA team at 985-446-1000.

Thank you again in advance for your consideration and potential contribution!

Kid Energy USA Foundation, EIN# 82-529429, is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Therefore, your donation is 100% tax deductible. 📞



T. Baker Smith, LLC (TBS) is a fully integrated, professional consulting firm committed to delivering successful project outcomes for our clients in the public works, exploration and production, pipeline, industrial, and land development markets we serve. TBS' disciplined professionals serve as trusted advisors to our clients by engaging their challenges, framing innovative solutions, and providing responsive service during all phases of project delivery.

When it comes to buried utilities, what you don't know can really hurt your budget and schedule. TBS' Subsurface Utility Engineering (SUE) team of expert engineers, surveyors, and technicians delivers reliable buried utility data to keep clients' projects on track and within budget. Our Utility Risk Management solutions start with uncovering what is buried under your proposed project site, minimizing utility-related risks and uncertainties. TBS works closely with clients to arrive at the appropriate quality level(s) for each project and performs SUE services in accordance with the ASCE 38 guideline and industry standards. This is achieved by collaboratively determining specific project and client needs, then employing an iterative approach in pursuit of each quality level. With decades of experience and an extensive in-house equipment suite, we achieve all four quality levels of utility depictions.

LA 811 provides the safety that is needed for excavators and the community daily, and TBS has those same safety standards. Ensuring everyone goes home safe is one of our core behaviors and foundational pillars. Thank you, LA 811, for your help keeping those in the industry safe. www.tbsmith.com, 225.228.5611. 



We are a Security and Advanced Communications systems integrator providing a broad range of services to include Video Management Systems (VMS), Access Control, Structured Cabling, Perimeter Detection (Gates/Turnstiles). We service the Gulf South mainly and Pan Handle, but have projects from Nashville, TX to Kansas City if needed. We are in Harahan, LA for our division, but have other offices in Metairie, Covington, and Texas. Some commercial services include: Data/Network Structured Cabling, CATV/MATV Cable (RF TV Signals), Fiber Optic Cabling, Access Control, Burglar/Intrusion

Alarm, CCTV Cameras/Video Management Systems, Networks, Audio/Visual, Intercom Systems, Public Address – such as mass notification, emergency phones & poles, and radio. Other services include Sound Making, Wi-Fi Distribution Networks, Distributed Antenna Systems, Cell-Fi Boosting Signals from carriers outside to indoor commercial/industrial/large venue facilities, and RFID / Asset Tracking. Services that we partner together with sub-contractors include Electronic/Physical Gates for Perimeter Access, VoIP/Phone System, Building Controls such as AC Lighting, and Electrical Services.

Markets that we focus on but are not limited to are Energy/Utility · Oil/Gas · Petro-Chemical · Education (K-12/Higher Education) · Healthcare · Municipal – Court Houses · Large Venues/Arenas · Commercial Buildings · Warehousing · Food Storage · Manufacturing · Industrial Space · Financial Services · Transportation

We are a division of M S Benbow & Associates (1978 Established) and the Construction side of the business. MSB side (Engineering and Procurement) has an engineering department for Wi-Fi, Cellular, and Distributed Antenna Systems design and Implementation. We also have a Project Controls Division on the parent side of the house. We usually handle the installation on these projects, and they do parts and smarts.

I know my MSB side of the house uses LA One Call before projects at Refineries or Chem Plants. TruConnect has installed LA811's office's new CCTV/Video Management System for visual evidence of certain instances that may warrant detection. This platform will allow us to take over the Access Control that is currently in place at a later date with our Partner Avigilon (the product they are using for security). We also were awarded the Gate project at their office. We have physical Avigilon server in the office for their cameras and viewed on a monitor for the administration or remotely on an application for the phone, cameras around the perimeter, also the capability to handle the card readers at doors for permissions, and the access to the parking lot. Also, the two gates will be at the parking lot with (2) card readers and Video Intercoms for the front of house staff to allow access into the gates if they are closed. www.Tru-Connect.net, 504-262-4500 

Pipelines

Your Quiet Neighbor

Millions of people all across the country share the same neighbor. This neighbor does not intrude where it's not wanted and simply goes about its business helping all of us every day.

Pipelines are the energy lifelines of many of our daily activities, from driving our children to school and heating our homes, to buying groceries at the store delivered by trucks that run on diesel.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

[Without them our roads and highways would be overrun with trucks trying to meet this demand.]

A large, circular warning sign with a yellow and black color scheme. The sign features a silhouette of a worker in a hard hat and safety vest on the right side. The background of the sign shows silhouettes of industrial structures like a crane and a tower. The text is in bold, yellow, sans-serif font. At the bottom of the sign, there are diagonal black and yellow stripes and a row of small yellow squares.

WARNING
NATURAL GAS
PIPELINE

BEFORE EXCAVATING OR IN EMERGENCY

Be aware of pipeline markers in your neighborhood and at your worksite

The U.S. has the largest network of energy pipelines of any nation in the world. There are more than 200,000 miles of oil pipelines and 300,000 miles of natural gas pipelines all across the country. These lines are tucked under our streets, through neighborhoods and communities, and traveling below farmland, forests and deserts. Since Americans consume more than 700 million gallons of petroleum products per day, pipelines are an essential component of our nation's infrastructure. Without them our roads and highways would be overrun with trucks trying to meet this demand. According to National Transportation Safety Board statistics, pipelines are the safest, most reliable manner for transporting crude oil and other liquid petroleum products. Pipeline owners and operators are ever mindful of the safety of those around them and they strictly follow proven safety procedures.

Many pipeline companies regularly inspect their rights-of-way using air, foot or vehicle patrols. These trained inspectors look for potential danger to pipelines such as construction activity or signs of gas or liquid leaks. These inspections along their pipeline routes

are to ensure the security and integrity of their lines.

Pipeline companies keep in touch on a regular basis with emergency officials and work with local emergency responders along pipeline rights-of-way in case of an emergency, sometimes even training with fire departments or hazardous materials units. Even though a leak or spill is extremely unlikely, pipeline companies provide information like that which you will find on the following pages that will prepare you in the event that it does occur. Their hope is to continue to be a quiet neighbor and provide you with this important information to help if you suspect a problem in your area. Pipeline companies take the safe operation of their infrastructure seriously, which includes protecting your family, your property and the environment. Because of this diligence, incidents are very rare.

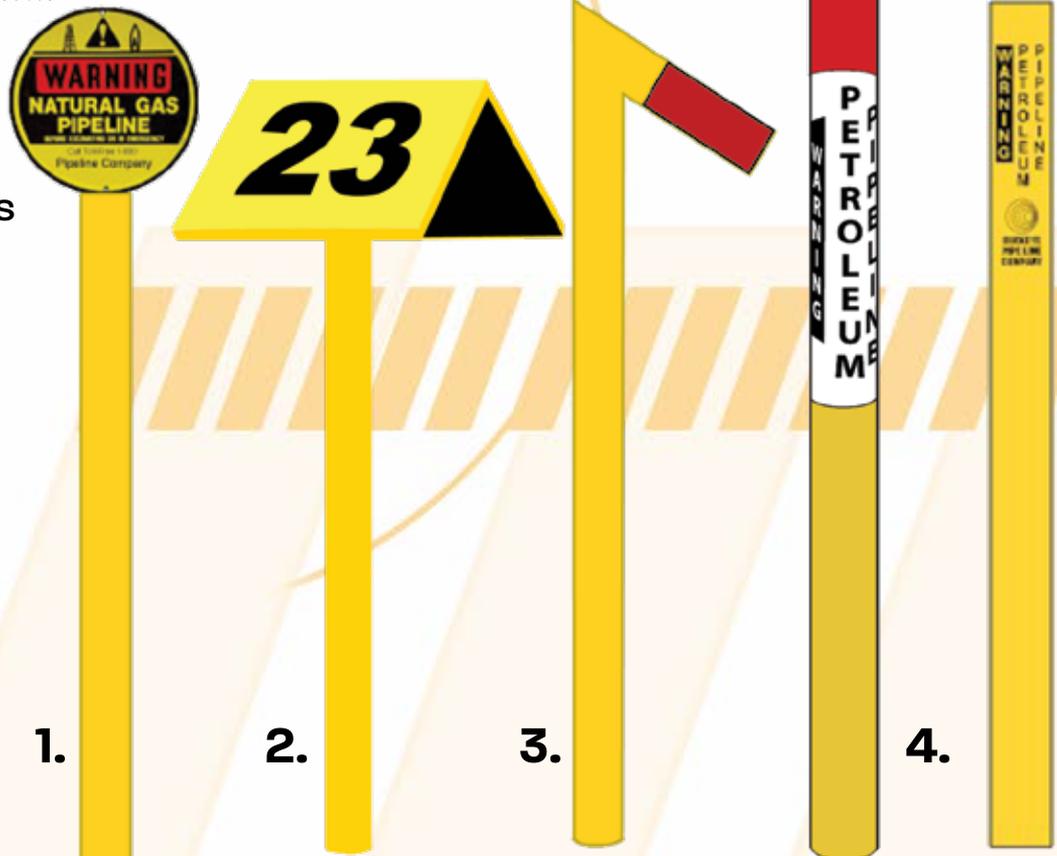
For your safety, pipelines are marked by above ground signs to provide an indication of their presence, approximate location, material carried and the name and contact information of the company that operates the pipeline. Markers may be anywhere

along the right-of-way (a strip of land usually about 25 to 150 feet wide that contains a pipeline) or directly over the pipeline itself. These markers are generally yellow, black and red in color. The pipeline may not follow a straight course between markers. While markers are helpful in locating pipelines, they do not provide information such as how many pipelines are below or the depth of the lines. The primary function of these markers is to identify the location of the pipeline generally as an alert to those who might be working along the pipeline corridor for another utility or during the construction of homes or businesses nearby. You should be aware of any pipeline markers in your neighborhood. As the saying goes, "Know your neighbors." Write down the name and phone numbers appearing on the pipeline markers in case of emergency.

Pipeline markers are important for the safety of the general public. It is a federal crime for any person to willfully deface, damage, remove or destroy any pipeline sign or right-of-way marker.

Look for these signs

1. Located near roads, railroads and along the pipeline right-of-way
2. Marker for pipeline patrol planes
3. Pipeline casing vent
4. Painted metal, plastic or fiberglass posts



What to do if a pipeline is damaged or disturbed

One of the greatest single challenges to safe pipeline operations is the accidental damage caused by excavation, construction, farming activities, or even homeowner construction and maintenance. Before you dig or excavate, contact the One-Call Center by simply dialing 811 from anywhere in the United States. Please call before you start your project, whether landscaping, building fences or performing a major construction project. Pipeline companies and other utilities will mark the location of their lines at no cost to you. Pipeline and utility markers may not show the exact location of the buried lines. When excavating near pipelines, many companies will require that they have a pipeline company representative onsite to inspect and protect the underground pipeline. Failure to call 811 before excavation is the leading cause of damages to buried pipelines. One simple call can help keep you out of harm's way.

Even if you cause what appears to be only minor damage to the pipeline, immediately notify the pipeline company. A gouge, scrape, dent or crease to the pipe or coating may cause a future rupture or leak. It is critical that a cut or broken tracer wire be repaired. It is imperative that the pipeline owner inspects and repairs any damage to the line or related apparatus. Many states have laws requiring damages to be reported to the facility owner and/or the One-Call center by dialing 811. Do not attempt to make the repairs to the line yourself. If a line is ruptured or leaking call 911. Contact the pipeline company as quickly as possible. Pipeline marker signs show the pipeline company's name, emergency telephone number and pipeline contents.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 14



Pipeline protective coating damaged by a backhoe



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our commitment to safety.

Call before you dig.

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Making our world
more productive

**Before you dig,
dig this.**

Pipeline safety starts
from the ground up.

Always call 811 before
you dig. It's the law.

Get more pipeline safety
information at
xtoenergy.com.

811
Know what's below.
Call before you dig.

XTO
ENERGY

So what exactly do all these pipelines transport?

There is a wide range of products traveling through the thousands of miles of pipelines, everything from gas for your car to oxygen for hospitals. Many of these products can be highly flammable, harmful if inhaled, cause eye or skin irritation or possibly cause difficulty breathing. Some of the materials could cause environmental damage. Because of these potential hazards, it is important for our neighbors to be able to recognize a pipeline leak.

Recognizing a pipeline leak

Using your sense of sight, smell and sound will help you in recognizing a suspected leak.

see

A dense, white cloud or fog over a pipeline
Discolored vegetation surrounding the pipeline
Bubbling in water or creeks or an oily sheen on water
Frozen ground in warm weather
Dirt blowing up from the ground

What *TO DO* If You Suspect a Leak

Immediately leave the area.

If possible turn off any equipment being used in or near the suspected leak. Abandon any equipment being used and move upwind from the suspected leak.

From a safe location, call 911 or your local emergency response number and the pipeline company. Give your name, phone number, description of the leak and its location.

Warn others to stay away when possible.

smell

An unusual smell or gaseous odor will sometimes accompany a pipeline leak.

What *NOT TO DO* If You Suspect a Leak

Do not touch, breathe or make contact with the leaking liquids or gas. Stay upwind if possible.

Do not light a match, start an engine, use a telephone, turn on or off any type of electrical switch such as a light, garage door opener, etc. or do anything that may create static or a spark.

Do not attempt to extinguish any pipeline fire that may start.

Do not drive into a leak or vapor cloud area. Automobile engines may ignite the vapors.

Do not attempt to operate valves.

hear

An unusual noise coming from the pipeline, such as a hissing or roaring sound, may be a sign of a leak.

Pipeline Operator's Actions during an Emergency In the unlikely event of an accident or leak, the pipeline operator who is notified will immediately dispatch personnel to the site to help handle the emergency and to provide information to public safety officials to assist in their response to the emergency. Pipeline technicians will also take quick action such as starting and stopping pumps or compressors, closing and opening valves, and similar steps to minimize the impact of the situation. These responders are heavily trained throughout the year to ensure their neighborhood is returned to its well-being.

High Consequence Areas In accordance with federal regulations, some areas near pipelines have been designated as High Consequence Areas. For these areas, supplemental hazard assessment and prevention programs known as Integrity Management Programs have been developed. If a pipeline operator has High Consequence Areas, information about these plans may be available through their company's website or by contacting the operator's corporate offices.

There is a wide range of products traveling through the thousands of miles of pipelines, everything from gas for your car to oxygen for hospitals. Many of these products can be highly flammable, harmful if inhaled, cause eye or skin irritation or possibly cause difficulty breathing. Some of the materials could cause environmental damage. Because of these potential hazards, it is important for our neighbors to be able to recognize a pipeline leak.

Can Owners Build or Dig on a Right-Of-Way? Pipeline rights-of-way must be kept free from structures and other obstructions to provide access to the pipeline for maintenance, as well as in the event of an emergency. If a pipeline crosses your property, please do not plant trees or large shrubs on the right-of-way. Do not dig, build, store or place anything on or near the rights-of-way without first having the pipeline company's personnel mark the pipeline or stake the rights-of-way and explain the company's construction and easement requirements to you.

We Need Your Help The nation's infrastructures, including pipelines, are a matter of national security. If you witness suspicious activity on a pipeline right-of-way, please report it to the appropriate authorities as soon as possible, or you may call the pipeline operator's numbers. Threat advisories may be found at the Department of Homeland Security's website www.dhs.gov/dhspublic.

National Pipeline Mapping System For information about pipelines operating in your area, you may contact the National Pipeline Mapping System (NPMS). This database of pipeline operators and the location of their lines was designed for the public to have access to contact information for pipeline companies operating in your area. This information can be found at www.npms.phmsa.dot.gov. Visit www.phmsa.dot.gov/about-phmsa/offices/office-pipeline-safety for more information. For information on safe excavation, visit www.commongroundalliance.com.

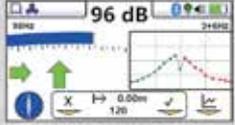
Awareness is the key to preventing pipeline accidents. You can contribute to the safety and security of your neighborhood by knowing where pipelines are, and knowing how to recognize unauthorized activity or signs of a leak, as well as how to respond in the case of a pipeline accident. Pipeline companies continue to strive to be good neighbors, and just like any good neighborhood watch program, neighbors look out for each other. Join in with the pipeline companies to keep our families safe. 



vLoc3-DM Defect Mapper & Utility Locator

The vLoc3-DM is a non-intrusive measuring device to take measurements along the pipeline while locating and mapping the pipeline.

- Identify the position of coating defects
- Identify shorts to other structures
- Help plan and prioritize remedial work
- Operate as a long line pipeline locator



Simultaneous current attenuation & ACVG survey



Data logging & GPS coordinates



vLoc3-DM Receiver 150-Watt Transmitter 25-Watt Transmitter 5" Transmitter Signal Clamp

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summit
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Baton Rouge

A Day to Remember

By Joe Igel

I still remember sitting at my desk that day when there was the sound of a large apparent explosion. Strangely, this was not uncommon—our office was next door to a trash compaction station which periodically blew up when some item that was not supposed to be in the compactor somehow made it into the compactor. But this time was different. The ground and the building all shook significantly despite the sound itself seeming distant. Within 30 minutes, we heard the news that there had been an explosion nearly 25 miles away, and it was serious.

Two workers running a bulldozer with a ripper attachment, preparing for the installation of a fiber optic line, had ruptured a 25-inch gas transmission line. The gas transmission line crisscrossed the proposed excavation site. The explosion and ensuing fire had literally consumed their bodies, leaving only small piles of ash. Something had gone very wrong. There was much speculation regarding the cause and differing conclusions were reached.

This and similar events formed my views toward safety and toward excavation. Although retired from the day-to-day operation, I am privileged to sit on Ohio's One Call Law enforcement board. And as I hear complaints where excavators are working around medium and high pressure gas lines, I think back to this incident and others like it.

The rules and safeguards as well as the best practices for working around underground utilities are critical and all excavators should understand the risks they take, the risks that their employees and the public are exposed to and the proper methods to avoid them. A simple understanding of the 811 process is a good start, yet the rules for excavating around gas lines are more complex and more demanding and for good reason.

Since 2003, PHMSA has co-sponsored RP 1162 workshops (RP for Recommended Practices). There is a great deal of benefit from attending

these and learning about hazards and protections. Some good practices:

1. Prepare an Emergency Action Plan for the job. As preparation, review the plan documents for the location of all existing utilities and the specific locations for the work to be performed. A pre-planning meeting with utility owners that have facilities in the dig area would be a prudent move as well.
2. Notify and work with any listed pipeline operators in your excavation area. Notify them of your expected type of work, schedule and type of construction equipment used (e.g., directional drill versus open cut).
3. Ask the pipeline operator if they will have a representative there (in certain cases, federal law may mandate a representative being on site when working in proximity to a pipeline) as you approach, dig over and work immediately past their facilities. Invite them to a safety meeting.
4. Contact the appropriate emergency medical responders for the site(s) so that they are aware of your work. Also, invite them for a safety meeting. As contractors, we get numb to the intricacies of the site, but a first responder coming there for the first time will not be.
5. Morning safety and planning huddles become even more critical during excavation. The time lost to the huddle will be recuperated by improved production.
6. Report any damages, caused or even noticed, to the facility owner. Damage, even to the protective coating on the pipeline, can cause catastrophic failure down the road.

Control all of the variables you can and be prepared for the unexpected. There are many best practices and this article only represents a few. Setting yourself up for success is critical to a good outcome. 

Mr. Igel recently retired as vice president of the George J. Igel & Co., Inc. after working there for more than 35 years.





- Call 811 at least two full business days before excavating.
- Wait until all buried utilities are marked with paint and/or flags.
- Dig and Excavate Safely, within the parameters of the One Call ticket.

Louisiana 811, Call Before You Dig

Kinetica Emergency Phone Numbers: (337) 312-2101 or Toll Free (855) 395-3958

Pipeline safety is a shared responsibility

- There are over 2.5 million miles of pipelines in the US according to the Pipeline & Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.
- GulfSafe reports 35,000 miles of pipeline just in the Gulf of Mexico.
- Every six minutes an underground utility line is damaged by someone who did not call 811 before digging, according to CGA's DIRT report.
- Louisiana State Law requires contacting the 811 at least 2 full business days prior to a planned excavation.
- According to Louisiana State Law, an "excavation" means any operation causing movement or removal of earth, rock, or other materials in or on the ground or submerged in a marine environment that could reasonably result in damage to underground or submerged utilities or facilities by the use of powered or mechanical or manual means, including but not limited to pile driving, digging, blasting, augering, boring, back filling, dredging, compaction, plowing-in, trenching, ditching, tunneling, land-leveling, grading, and mechanical probing.

*For more information, or to schedule a free presentation please contact Kinetica's Damage Prevention Department.
(985) 223-6145*

2022 Louisiana Damage Prevention Summit

While the pandemic had an impact on attendance this year, it was minimal. Thanks to all the sponsors and exhibitors that made this year's event so successful. One thing that stood out was the enthusiasm of everyone involved. The 811 car, the "fire in the wire" and the awards ceremonies created a tremendous atmosphere that most said was needed after a tough couple of years. The exhibit hall overflowed into the hallway and was jumping with energy, the sessions and workshops were extremely well attended and networking was the best. If you were there, you'll want to come back and if you weren't, you will definitely want to mark your calendar for January 24 – 26, 2023 and next year the Summit is moving to the L'Auberge Baton Rouge. The Summit is the can't miss damage prevention event for the can't miss crowd in Louisiana! See you there... 



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**Make plans
to join us next year.**

**January 24-26
L'Auberge Casino &
Hotel
Baton Rouge**

2022 Locate Rodeo

Louisiana's Locate Rodeo is part of the celebration that the Damage Prevention Summit brings to Louisiana each year. Thanks to the sponsors and volunteers for making this event so special. Our team leader is Brandi Schmitt, Entergy. Her attention to detail ensures a smooth ride. A special thanks to Daniel Brooks and to the leadership at DEMCO for their hospitality and making their space available for the Rodeo. To all the competitors who made this year's Rodeo exciting, just know we appreciate the grind you face every day, and this event is to celebrate you and the great jobs you do. That's part of the reason, the committee opted to have cash prizes along with the plaques and the 2022 grand prize was \$1,000 cash. I already hear that next year's grand prize will be even bigger. We'll keep you posted... and congratulations to all the contestants. 🏆

Locate Rodeo Winners

(left to right) Thomas Jones II, Entergy Gas - Gas Division winner; Brandon Smith, Baton Rouge Water - Water Division winner; Damon Hoyt, T. Baker Smith - Power Division winner, Overall Grand Champion; Adam Templet, T. Baker Smith - Telecom Division and LFH winner and 2nd Place Overall winner.



Locator of the Year Awards



Contract Locator, John Jackins, Stake Center



Large Member Company, Jason Raffray, Entergy Gas

the **JACOBI** P E R S P E C T I V E

by John Jacobi

Pipeline Safety - A recent Personal Experience

Last time I included a paragraph about digging a hole. Little did I know that I would soon be doing exactly that.

Remember the power grid failure in Texas last spring? My wife and I decided that we needed a whole-house back-up generator “just in case” of a similar event in the future. I figured it should cost about \$10k based on history.

I started researching vendors in September. Boy!! Was I wrong about the cost. I would be lucky to get one installed for \$14k. Even more interesting - the vendor I wanted to use (based on word of mouth) couldn't even come out for an estimate until December 21st! Furthermore, it would be until at least May before a unit could be installed. More research. I discovered I could buy a generator (including automatic transfer switch) from Costco for about a third of the price and it was in the warehouse and could be delivered in 2 to 3 weeks! SOLD!! It ended up taking a little over a month, but it was a great unit at a great price.

CenterPoint Energy is the service provider for both gas and electricity in our neighborhood. I thought it might be a good idea to check with them to find out what I might need with respect to a new gas meter. I cheated a bit, and I called a friend with CenterPoint and he told me exactly who to call (Roger) about my gas meter. I called Roger and he was able to stop by in only a couple of days. Talk about helpful!! As it turned out, I could either upgrade my existing meter and install about 200

feet of gas line to get to my proposed generator location or I could get a second gas meter installed near the proposed location. The second meter would have cost twice as much and would have meant a second minimum charge every month.

I used to work construction and I am semi-retired. I chose to install the 200 feet of gas line myself. Can you say “DIGGING”?? The route of the line was from the existing gas meter across the back yard to the back of the garage. We have an in-ground sprinkler system, and I knew that I would have to cross the existing gas service line at least once. Time to call 811! The existing service line was pretty much where I expected it to be but the lines in the easement behind the garage were closer than I expected. Because of the sprinkler system and several large trees, I decided to hand-dig the trench (49 CFR Part 192 requires service lines to be installed with at least 12” of cover and there are no applicable local codes). That was a lot of work, but the time I could have saved by renting a trencher would have been doubled or tripled fixing the sprinkler system and I did not want to damage the tree roots (I dug under the bigger ones).

I ended up pouring my own pad for the generator (10 80-pound bags of concrete) as well as doing the wiring myself. It took a lot of time to spec out all the necessary details and bits and pieces of hardware. I saved some money, and I learned a LOT!!

The point is that Call-Before-You-Dig works!! Calling 811 will not locate your

sprinkler system, potable water lines, or sewer lines but it should locate underground gas lines, electrical lines, and phone lines. A little common sense, however, is worth its weight in gold!! In this particular case, the extra hand digging saved untold hours in terms of fixing damage to the sprinkler system and probably saved at least three nice trees.

I was lucky that I found Roger. Roger, the young man that changed out my gas meter (I needed a bigger one for the generator), and the crew that performed the temporary electrical disconnect so I could make the final electrical connection were all extremely professional and very helpful. Kudos to CenterPoint Energy!!

Just a “heads up” - if you are a CenterPoint customer and need to call the customer service line, unless it is an emergency, be patient, very patient. Between COVID and Amazon hiring, CenterPoint is training new customer service representatives as fast as they can. Emergencies are taken care of IMMEDIATELY I know, after waiting for 20 minutes or more to talk to a human several times, I declared an “emergency” and someone answered the call right away. I was embarrassed but I got off the line quickly. Other customer service calls may take some time until the new hires get trained.

May 2022 be a kinder and gentler year and don't forget to CALL-BEFORE-YOU-DIG!! 🚧

*John Jacobi retired from PHMSA.
For questions or comments, email:
jjacobi@sbcglobal.net*



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